REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment an Abstract is submitted.

Further, claims 1-12 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 13-24 are presented for examination. New claims 13-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 13-24 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-12.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

GJM/SNS/law I:\atty\SNS\287440US-pr.doc Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423